

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 SS-20 NSC-07 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 221329Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 11268

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S HEALTH

REF: CAIRO 5371

1. IN ANSWER REFTEL, BREZHNEV RECEIVED FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES ON JULY 12 WITH AMBASSADORS VIMONT AND CHERVONENKO PRESENT. THE MEETING LASTED 3 1/2 HOURS.

2. CAIRO PRESS STORIES OF BREZHNEV'S ILLNESS AS REASON FOR FAHMI POSTPONEMENT ARE NOT CONVINCING IN LIGHT OF BREZHNEV'S CURRENT APPEARANCES IN POLAND (HE DEPARTED THE CRIMEA JULY 19). BREZHNEV EVIDENTLY INTERRUPTED CRIMEAN VACATION FOR WARSAW ANNIVERSARY AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL PARTICIPATE IN PRESUMED PARTY PLENUM AND LEGISLATIVE SESSION LATER THIS WEEK IN MOSCOW.

3. BREZHNEV'S HEALTH IS SUBJECT OF CONTRADICTORY INTERPRETATIONS. SEEMS CLEAR THAT HIS ENERGY IS MORE LIMITED THAN IN PAST, AND CHRONIC SPEECH DIFFICULTY IN WADING THROUGH CONSONANT CLUSTERS MISLEADS OBSERVERS ABOUT SOBRIETY. AGE IS WORKING AGAINST HIM, BUT BREZHNEV IS NOT NOTICEABLY ILL AT PRESENT AND HE SEEMS ABLE TO DISCHARGE HIS DUTIES. STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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